

## Army Strong and Achieving Success

**A**s we endeavor to take ownership and make protection of our force a part of our culture and focus to empower each and every Soldier to engage and make a difference, I think it appropriate to share with you one of our Army's significant successes.

Our goal to develop in all Soldiers an ability to think holistically, looking at where and when they might use their specific skill sets to protect their Team and save lives, is happening. While we're making progress in several areas, let me share with and toss out for your consideration some areas where we, as an Army Strong, are achieving success.

Each of these successes is pertinent to all we do and inherent in a culture of "engaged leadership." Again, these are success stories worth sharing over and over! As you read, please think of other ways we might use this model for engaging with the entire Team.

Getting each and every Soldier to take ownership and assume responsibility for protecting our force is exemplified in the success of the Motorcycle Mentorship Program. Individual MMPs spread throughout our Army have done several things well. First and most significant is the incredible success in driving down motorcycle fatalities. To date, our losses are some 60 percent below those seen in previous years.

Our losses in fiscal 2006 appeared to be a negative trend. However, our leaders and Soldiers quickly realized these unacceptable events must be STOPPED. Through the direct involvement of commands and the further direct engagement of experienced motorcycle riders, our Army stemmed the flow. That in itself is huge.

A look into the "why this happened" is enlightening and brings me to the second success of the MMP. Each regional MMP is essentially the result of Soldiers and/or civilians that perceived a need and established a program to embody "ownership." While the individual MMPs aren't necessarily headed by formal leadership from the post or chain of command, a justifiable case can be made that these informal leaders crafted and achieved a model for best practices in engaged leadership. They've instituted organizations that embody ownership within their formations and made a cultural shift in protecting our force that's indeed a success.

These leaders have achieved a "band of brothers" mentality that's making a difference and saving lives. What's equally enlightening is these successes weren't confined to a particular post, camp or station. In fact, they reflect the same "transformation" our Army has achieved—that we must depend on decentralized operations led by junior leaders.

I believe there are other places where informal groups of engaged leaders can impact and achieve success. FORSCOM has developed some excellent motorcycle best practices of which all riders should be aware. You can find them on the USACRC's MMP Web site at <https://crc.army.mil/mmp> or FORSCOM's Web site at <http://www.forscom.army.mil>. Be sure you know these practices and pass them along to your troops so we all can learn what others have to teach. It's all about being a team and making sure we never leave a fallen comrade behind.



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Commanding